



POL 14 VIET 5
Department of State TELEGRAM

1174

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06948 270049Z

89
ACTION SS 70

INFO /070 W

R 261230Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7631
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4352
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 1011
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2611

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>John J. Guly</i>	DATE <i>12/23/81</i>
RCR ☐ G. XIS ☐ EN. DATE	
10/1/81	RCR (M/D)
EX. DIR. ☐ EX. DIR. ☐	
LEG. ☒ EX. DIR. ☐	
REL. ☐ EX. DIR. ☐	
PA & FOR EXEMPTIONS	

CONFIDENTIAL SAIGON 6948

LIMDIS

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PHAN KHAC SUU

REF: SAIGON 6326

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED ELECTION VALIDATION SITUATION WITH PHAN KHAC SUU MORING SEPTEMBER 26. SUU'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED. HE BEGAN BY CATALOGUING THREE "CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF ELECTORAL LAW" WHICH ADVERSELY

① PAGE 2 RUMJIR 6948 CONFIDENTIAL
AFFECTED HIS OWN CANDIDACY: NUMERUS INSTANCES OF PEOPLE HAVING MORE THAN ONE VOTER CARD (VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 4); CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AFTER OFFICIAL END OF CAMPAIGN PERIOD (BINH MINH ARTICLE OF SEPTEMBER 2 FALSELY ANNOUNCING SUU'S WITHDRAWAL, AND ALLEGED GOVERNMENT EXPLOITATION OF THE ARTICLE - VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 23); AND FACT THAT ELECTION REPORTS FROM PROVINCES DID NOT REACH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY SEPTEMBER 10 DEADLINE SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 3.

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 06948 270049Z

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THESE AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES COULD HAVE AFFECTED OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION. SUU SAID THAT THEY DID INDEED AFFECT THE RESULTS. HE REPEATED HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED VIEW (REFTEL) THAT PEOPLE OF VIET NAM KNOW ELECTION WAS FRAUDULENT, AND WTD BE UP IN ARMS IF ELECTION WERE VALIDATED. MOREOVER, THIEU-KY GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVE INCAPABLE OF WINNING SUPPORT OF PEOPLE TO DEFEAT COMMUNISTS.

3. EMBOFF SAI THAT INVALIDATION WOULD BE LIKELY TO PRODUCE FAR MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAN VALIDATION FOR FUTURE OF

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 6948 C O N F I D E N T I A L
VIET NAM. INTERNAL DISTURBANCES WOULD BE ONE LIKELY RESULT. ANOTHER WOULD BE SERIOUS EFFECT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION TOWARD VIET NAM AND AMERICAN COMMITMENT HERE. RECENT ELECTIONS WE ONE OF FEW SIGNS OF PROGRESS OBVIOUS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE. CONSEQUENTLY, INVALIDATION OF ELECTION WOULD BE A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO THEM. SUU SAID HE RECOGNIZED REJECTION OF THE ELECTION WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR PRESIDENT HOHNSON. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT IF SO, ULTIMATE EFFECT WOULD BE FELT IN VIET NAM.

4. SUU DID NOT APPEAR TO BE GREATLY MOVED BY EMBOFF'S REMARKS. HE IMPLIED THAT WHAT VIETNAMESE PEOPLE THINK OF SITUATION IS CENTRAL ISSUE, AND HE BELIEVES THEY CONSIDER ELECTION FRAUDULENT. SUU AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT AMERICAN REACTION TO INVALIDATION IS ONE IMPORTANT FACTOR. HE SAID HE WOULD ADVISE DEPUTIES TO GIVE IT DUE CONSIDERATION.

5. SUU CLAIMS THAT ASSEMBLY IS NOW ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED ON ISSUE OF VALIDATION; HE DECLINED TO PREDICT WHAT OUTCOME WOULD

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 6948 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BE. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR HIM TO VOTE, SINCE HE IS AN INTERESTED PARTY. INSTEAD, SUU SAID HE WILL PRESIDE OVER ASSEMBLY DELIBERATIONS, WHICH HE EMPHASIZED WOULD BE

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 06948 270049Z

DONE IN COMPLETELY IMPARTIAL MANNER.

6. COMMENT: SUU IS PROBABLY AMONG THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO ARE UNCONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF INVALIDATION. FACT THAT HE HAS JOINED UP WITH TRUONG DINH DZU DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT HE WILL TAKE RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN ASSEMBLY DEBATE, AND THERE IS DANGER THAT HE WILL NOT PRESIDE IMPARTIALLY. BELIEVE WE HAVE CLEARLY AND UNMISTAKABLY MADE OUR VIEW KNOWN TO HIM, AND THESE MAY YET HAVE USEFUL EFFECT. BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

03 06 94 8 27 00 49 Z